

NSC BRIEFING**20 June 1957**State Department review
completed**MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS**

- I. In Lebanon, the anti-Nasr government extended its recent success by winning 19 of 20 seats in the second stage of parliamentary election. Virtual exclusion of opposition from the legislature, however, presages increasing difficulty for the government and presents danger of Moslem-Christian split.

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- III. Jordan continues to press break with Egypt most openly.

- A. Egyptian and Syrian subsidies promised to Jordan have now been publicly withdrawn.

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- IV. In Iraq, King Faisal has appointed Ali Jawdat to succeed Nuri Said.

- A. Removal of the controversial Nuri will facilitate closer association among anti-Nasr Arabs.

- V. Fear of Nasr and of Communism is principal force uniting three kings, but old dynastic and territorial rivalries still exist.

- VI. In Syria, new maneuvering by Egyptian-supported leftists reportedly aims at establishing rule by a military junta on the Egyptian

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- A. Fear that anti-Nasr forces might turn next to Syria has promoted unity among feuding leftist groups.
- B. President Quwatli reportedly ill and ready to leave for Switzerland. Premier Asali also "fed up" and would like to get out. New crisis thus appears developing which would give chance of leftist takeover.

VIII. Nasr, now on the defensive, must attempt to regain the initiative by dramatic action, or make conciliatory gestures while awaiting a new opportunity to strike at his Arab enemies. In the latter case, however, he risks losing even further ground.

- A. Although carefully arranged elections 3 July promise to install an overwhelming pro-regime majority in Egypt's first post-revolution 350-man legislature, Nasr has been compelled to restrict severely Communist candidates as well as those of the right-wing Moslem Brotherhood and pre-revolution political parties.
- B. Embassy Athens reports Greek Premier Karamanlis plans to visit Egypt, probably next month, ^{he says} to help Nasr seek rapprochement with West. His main motive, however, is probably to bolster Greek prestige.

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